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Letter dated 5 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing with regard to the letter dated 3 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/891), which irresponsibly accused the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of promoting and financing extremist groups in the region and blamed the Kingdom for the attack that occurred on the Ahvaz military parade on 21 September 2018.

The Government of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns and categorically rejects this anticipated offensive accusation by the Iranian regime, as a part of many other hostile statements made by this regime to merely cover for its aggressive and devastating policies in the region and throughout the world. The Iranian regime has in the past accused the Kingdom of being behind the collapse of the Iranian economy, choosing to blame the Kingdom instead of changing its heinous behaviour that resulted in wasting the country's income by supporting and financing terrorist acts instead of developing the nation's infrastructure and the well-being of its own citizens.

The Kingdom policy is clear about non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and its comprehensive rejection of any interference in its internal affairs.

The substantiated evidence in regard to the support and financing of the terrorist groups in the world by the Iranian regime is obvious and does not require any further investigation. Iran's supply of ballistic missiles to the Houthi armed group in Yemen is widely evident and continues to pose serious regional and global threats. Iranian interference is destabilizing the region through its arm, the terrorist group Hizbullah in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. I also would like to remind you of numerous terrorist acts committed in Saudi Arabia, including the Khobar Towers bombings in June 1996 and the explosion of Sadaf Petrochemical Plant in Jubail in March 1988, all planned by Iran's arm in the region, Hizbullah.

Such an accusation by this regime is a clear diversion of attention from the deterioration of the situation of its own people, especially the population of Ahvaz. The Kingdom believes that the Iranian regime should follow a new path and act as a responsible country for the sake of its people, instead of its dangerous policies that enhance sectarianism, extremism and ethnic segregation. The continued sheltering and harbouring of the most wanted terrorist figures in the world will only keep Iran a safe haven for such acts. In this regard, I would like to refer to the twenty-second

report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2368 (2017) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities (S/2018/705), in which it is stated that "Al-Qaida leaders in the Islamic Republic of Iran have grown more prominent, working with Aiman al-Zawahiri and projecting his authority more effectively than he could previously" and "through the agency of senior Al-Qaida leadership figures based in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

We urge the Iranian regime to respect the principle of good neighbourliness, international laws and norms and common human morality in its relations with other countries.

We call upon the Council and the international community to shoulder their responsibility to halt Iran's activities led by aggressive, expansionist revolutionary ideology. We also call for an end to Iran's financing, harbouring and training of terrorist organizations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative